

## **CLAIMS**

5                   1. A method of increasing insulin sensitivity by:  
                  administering an effective amount of a compound which  
stimulates nitric oxide production in the liver.

                  2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said administering  
step further includes orally administering the compound.

10                   3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said administering  
step further includes injecting the compound.

                  4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said administering  
15 step further includes delivering the compound through a pump system directly  
into the portal vein.

                  5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective  
amount of a compound which stimulates nitric oxide production in the liver  
20 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

                  6. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5,  
wherein said compound is a nitric oxide agonist.

25                   7. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5,  
wherein said compound is a nitric oxide donor.

                  8. The use of a compound which stimulates nitric oxide  
production in the liver and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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